
The National Science Teachers Association, in collaboration with the Children’s Book Council, is pleased to announce that the following titles have been selected as Outstanding Science Trade Books for 2012. This excellent literature represents the best in integration of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM). Among the award winners are books for readers at the primary, middle, and secondary levels—and many that will fascinate adults as well. They represent the practices of science around the world and throughout the ages. These outstanding selections can be a source of great personal reading, encouraging children of all ages to stretch their skills and allow their imaginations to interact with the printed page. We encourage you to share the sense of wonder and rewards of learning that they offer.

About Habitats: Grasslands
Cathryn Sill
Peachtree Publishers
Beautiful plates are enhanced by the annotations, which make valuable distinctions among grasslands.

About Hummingbirds
Cathryn Sill
Peachtree Publishers
Illustrations make this book come to life; the dual-level text is great for students and mentors.

After the Kill
Darrin Lunde
Charlesbridge
A new slant on predation; illustrations are accurate but not too graphic for elementary readers.

Animal Eyes
Beth Fielding
EarlyLight, distributed by Charlesbridge
Simple presentation of a complex idea with excellent compare-and-contrast information.

At the Sea Floor Café
Leslie Bulion
Peachtree Publishers
This book of poetry demonstrates a strong integration of science and literacy and can be used in different ways at different ages.

At This Very Moment
Jim Arnosky
Penguin/Dutton
Great supplemental information and illustrations support this book of poetry.

B is for Blue Planet
Ruth Strother
Sleeping Bear Press
With a strong focus on Earth science, this book gets at very important concepts.

Baby Mammoth Mummy
Frozen in Time
Christopher Sloan
National Geographic
This unique book is a fabulous illustration of scientific research methods and shows cultural connections.

Biomimicry
Dora Lee
Kids Can Press
With beautiful images, this information-rich book highlights an important topic.

Bug Shots
Alexandra Siy
Holiday House
One of the few books that appropriately distinguishes between bugs and other insects; great use of magnification with electron microscope images.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Author</th>
<th>Publisher</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Butterflies</td>
<td>Seymour Simon</td>
<td>HarperCollins</td>
<td>With beautiful photos and good detail, this reads like a story and will hold students’ attention.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A Butterfly Is Patient</td>
<td>Dianna Hutts Aston</td>
<td>Chronicle Books</td>
<td>Excellent facts and illustrations with accurate behaviors; visually beautiful and perfect for language arts illustrations.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Butterfly Tree</td>
<td>Sandra Markle</td>
<td>Peachtree Publishers</td>
<td>A captivating story line conveys a sense of wonder; more than just another butterfly book, this is about looking at something and making a discovery.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Can We Save the Tiger?</td>
<td>Martin Jenkins</td>
<td>Candlewick Press</td>
<td>A beautiful book with some political background regarding conservation that will be especially meaningful for older students.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Case of the Vanishing Golden Frogs</td>
<td>Sandra Markle</td>
<td>Lerner/Millbrook Press</td>
<td>Shows international cooperation among scientists; great model of scientific problem solving.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Caterpillars</td>
<td>Marilyn Singer</td>
<td>EarlyLight, distributed by Charlesbridge</td>
<td>This would make a great read-aloud; illustrations of life cycles enhance the text. A thematic poem weaves through the text.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coral Reefs</td>
<td>Jason Chin</td>
<td>Macmillan/Flash Point</td>
<td>A fantasy about diving into a book, with great information about coral.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deadly</td>
<td>Julie Chibbaro</td>
<td>Simon &amp; Schuster</td>
<td>Accurate biographical portrait of Typhoid Mary that focuses on methodology; good connections between science and societal problems.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Desert Elephants</td>
<td>Helen Cowcher</td>
<td>Macmillan/Farrar, Straus, and Giroux</td>
<td>A different type of migration study, with cultural connections and great analogies.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dinosaur Discovery</td>
<td>Chris McGowan</td>
<td>Simon &amp; Schuster</td>
<td>Not your average dinosaur book; real experiments and novel activities embedded in the text aid understanding.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eco Dogs</td>
<td>Judith Bauer Stamper</td>
<td>Bearport Publishing</td>
<td>High-interest book about dogs who work in collaboration with ecologists to identify endangered animals.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elephant Scientist</td>
<td>Caitlin O’Connell and Donna Jackson</td>
<td>Houghton Mifflin Harcourt</td>
<td>Part of an excellent series, with challenging reading about the methods and careers of scientists.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elephant Talk</td>
<td>Ann Downer</td>
<td>Lerner/Twenty-First Century Books</td>
<td>Excellent book about communication; includes a great account of the long history of humans’ fascination with elephants.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Energy Island</td>
<td>Allan Drummond</td>
<td>Macmillan/Frances Foster Books</td>
<td>Great story line with a realistic scenario; shows the impact that one person can have through collaboration.</td>
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</table>
Even an Octopus Needs a Home
Irene Kelly
Holiday House
Excellent stories about habitat with visual richness, good connections, and information about adaptations.

Family Pack
Sandra Markle
Charlesbridge
Great story about species reintroduction to an ecosystem; explains a harsh food chain in a gentle and developmentally appropriate way.

Far from Shore
Sophie Webb
Houghton Mifflin Harcourt
Wonderful example of a scientist’s journey recorded in a journal; encourages writing in science.

First Garden
Robbin Gourley
Houghton Mifflin Harcourt/Clarion Books
Helps children see history made in a true story about White House gardening.

For the Birds
Peggy Thomas
Boyds Mills Press/Calkins Creek
Visually stunning illustrations tell the story of how the interest sparked in a child can lead him or her into a scientific career.

Friends
Catherine Thimmesh
Houghton Mifflin Harcourt
Dual-level text shows unusual relationships between animals and explains the circumstances of the pairs.

Hatch!
Roxie Munro
Marshall Cavendish
Riddle format takes the life cycle beyond eggs to include habitats.

The Honeybee Man
Lela Nargi
Random House/Schwartz & Wade
Bee ecology with an urban twist; great scientific illustrations and information about pollination and life cycles.

How Did That Get in My Lunchbox?
Chris Butterworth
Candlewick Press
Shows the path from farm to school; great STEM integration; helps kids understand where their food comes from.

How the Weather Works
Christiane Dorion
Candlewick Press
This comprehensive weather book is an ideal choice for families, with pop-ups, challenging concepts, and vocabulary.

Manatee Scientists
Peter Lourie
Houghton Mifflin Harcourt
This is a great example of the nature of science; shows the value and styles of research that are used in the study of an endangered animal.

Meadowlands
Thomas F. Yezerski
Macmillan/Farrar, Straus, and Giroux
A story of habitat recovery, with unique borders and illustrations.

Michael Vey
Richard Paul Evans
Simon & Schuster
Science fiction with sound science and an accompanying English curriculum.

Over and Under the Snow
Kate Messner
Chronicle Books
Integrates facts into a story line; repetitive phrasing helps kids internalize concepts; good read-aloud.
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<tr>
<td><strong>A Place for Fish</strong></td>
<td>Melissa Stewart</td>
<td>Peachtree Publishers</td>
<td>A book within a book, with detailed information about habitats; good storyline and side notes.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Planting the Wild Garden</strong></td>
<td>Kathryn O Galbraith</td>
<td>Peachtree Publishers</td>
<td>Great introduction to the natural world; conveys the complex idea of seed dispersion easily, which is rare for a book at the elementary level.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Polar Bear: Shrinking Ice</strong></td>
<td>Stephen Person</td>
<td>Bearport Publishing</td>
<td>This book presents information about polar bears and shows an interesting partnership between an author and a scientist.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Polar Bears</strong></td>
<td>Mark Newman</td>
<td>Macmillan/Henry Holt and Co</td>
<td>Simply beautiful! This book has informative text and is great to read aloud and share.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Star of the Sea</strong></td>
<td>Janet Halfmann</td>
<td>Macmillan/Christy Ottaviano Books</td>
<td>Clarifies this unique group; great description of predator/prey relationships in the sea.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Swirl by Swirl</strong></td>
<td>Joyce Sidman</td>
<td>Houghton Mifflin Harcourt</td>
<td>Beautiful illustrations and attention to detail encourage student observations, integrating art with nature brilliantly.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Thomas the T. Rex</strong></td>
<td>Michael Smith</td>
<td>East West Discovery Press</td>
<td>A fictionalized account of a story of dinosaur discovery.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Time for a Bath</strong></td>
<td>Steve Jenkins and Robin Page</td>
<td>Houghton Mifflin Harcourt</td>
<td>This unusual topic, how animals clean themselves, will fascinate the youngest readers.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Tornado!</strong></td>
<td>Judy and Dennis Fradin</td>
<td>National Geographic</td>
<td>Amazing and timely photos tell the story of this devastating weather event.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Trapped</strong></td>
<td>Marc Aronson</td>
<td>Simon &amp; Schuster</td>
<td>Great example of a book to illustrate international cooperation and STEM problem-solving.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Voyage of Turtle Rex</strong></td>
<td>Kurt Cyrus</td>
<td>Houghton Mifflin Harcourt</td>
<td>A rhyming narrative connects today with the past, with an important author’s note to make the story relevant.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>The Watcher</strong></td>
<td>Jeanette Winter</td>
<td>Random House/Schwartz &amp; Wade</td>
<td>The story of Jane Goodall makes for an easy book to introduce observation and journaling; accurately but simply tells her story and how ethologists work.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>What’s for Dinner?</strong></td>
<td>Katherine B. Hauth</td>
<td>Charlesbridge</td>
<td>This poetic book shows early elementary readers energy transfer among animals in a food chain.</td>
</tr>
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</table>

Full reviews of these books will be available in the March 2012 issues of NSTA’s K–12 journals and online at www.nsta.org/ostb.